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LAMENT of the LAMB

TOKYOPOP

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ARTWORK BY KENJI

Volume 7 Kei Toume

LAMENT & LAMB

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Chirune descends into a world of monstrous mayhem in which a stunning flashback uncovers shocking secrets about her past—and the true nature of her disturbing disorder. Meanwhile the horror and awe of the vampiric illness takes its toll on Karuna, and he realizes that the only cure for the vicious infection is to do the unthinkable....

This fever-pitched conclusion stirs up disturbing memories and the unlikely set of possibilities for the siblings: Could Mother still be alive? And did Father really commit suicide? As Chirune and Karuna attempt to rid themselves of their dreaded disease, each sibling struggles to find a way to live free of sickness and finally rest in peace.

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第

7

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LAMENT *of the* LAMB.

VOL. 7

BY KCI TOKIME



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The
Editor

2014

YONGYU HUI

[illegible]

I must submit. I have a rough-on Nagasawa. But it's odd or hopeless now. While on the shores of another violent crossing, I told her about my strange dream. She told me about her dream, but rushed me to the infirmary, hospital. I have the worst attacks when she's near me, so I must completely avoid her. It will be difficult to keep her at arm's length, since she cares so much about me. But I worry that she cares too much.

Recently, Chagany told me how much she loved her father. But Chagany insists that father never reformed her feelings because she remembered her first bond with her suspect that is finally Chagany's 20 years to fill the emotional void left by father's death. Through the 1980s Chagany lived Chagany-and I are now living together. When I told her I could leave her she turned me back on the lips, told help me, I found her death, later on the grip of an unrelenting attack, I switched onto Chagany's neck, sinking my teeth in her blood.

Feeling the medicine's side effects, Monase has withheld it from Papagaio. After a collapse, Monase traveled to her at her father's old, now abandoned clinic. I suggest that Monase confessed her feelings for Chicarra, and they warmed her to send me in her kidnapping attempt. But she escaped from the clinic and went back home.

father's former nurse, Kiyomi, has combed through his documents at the old clinic and found nothing regarding our family's fate. eager to probe further, Kiyomi has been asking everyone a lot of questions. Meanwhile, Chiyomi and I decided to go back to school. Free Kiyomichi still pursues for me, and I've told my friend Kiyomichi about my illness and if

Chigoma has found a friend in her classmate Susuki. But a recurring dream about brother Jiji/Jo Chigoma with sword and bow sends her to secondary school where she'll share the same horrible fate.



LAMENT *of the* LAMB

羊のうた

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BOUNDS
TOTALLY CAN'T
I'M OUT--
EE--I MEAN,
I'LL PASS



WHO ELSE
WANTS TO
VOLUNTEER?
RAISE YOUR
HANDS!

WE'RE
STILL SHORT ON
VOLUNTEERS FOR
THE CULTURAL
FESTIVAL



I'M WAY
BUSY

I'M FULL UP
WITH CLUB
MEETINGS
CAN'T SPARE
THE TIME







I THINK
YOU SHOULD
GET YOURSELF
HOME...

YOU'VE
CERTAINLY
GOT A FEVER...
IT'S UP TO A
100.8



IS THERE
SOMEONE I
SHOULD CALL
TO TAKE YOU
HOME?



I'LL BE OKAY.
THIS HAPPENS
A LOT.

IF I REST
HERE A BIT,
I'M SURE I'LL
START FEELING
BETTER

NO,
THERE'S
NOBODY



I KNOW YOU
WANT TO KEEP YOUR
ATTENDANCE UP...
BUT IF YOUR HEALTH
IS STILL FALTERING,
YOU SHOULDN'T EXERT
YOURSELF. TRY AND
REST MORE.

TAKASHIRO-SAN,
DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE FORGIVING IT?
I MEAN, COMING
BACK TO SCHOOL
LIKE THIS



IT SEEMS
SOMERBY'S BEEN
INVESTIGATING
YOUR CASE





















MY
GOD! HE'S
HAVING AN
ATTACK!



IF
ANYONE
FINDS
HIM RIGHT
NOW...

WHAT
DO I
DO?!

WHAT
CAN I
DO?!





















CHIZUNA...

















YOU KNOW
WHAT IT'S
BEEN LIKE
FOR ME?!

TAKASHIO-
KUN, YOU'VE
NO IDEA
WHAT I'M
FEELING!

IT'S NOT
SO EASY,
YOU KNOW!



O-
PORT...



HOLD ON,
MAMIE HE'LL
COME AROUND,
MAMIE HE'LL
COME BACK

I
RELEASED
YOU'D
COME BACK
AND YOU'D
FINALLY SEE
HOW MUCH
I CARE!

YOU CAN
~~FORGET~~FEAR,
BUT MY
FEELINGS
AREN'T
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
SWITCH
OFF!

TO FEEL
WHAT
I DO AND
THEN
BE TOLD
NONE OF IT
MATTERS--
IT ALSO
HURTS!

I FEELING
TO HOLD ON
AND WAIT
FOR YOU



YOU'VE SAID
BEFORE YOU
NEVER WANT
TO HURT ME

THOSE WORDS
WERE WHAT
I HAD TO KEEP
ME GOING.



I'M SORRY



BUT I WAS
WRONG

BECAUSE
HOW YOU'RE
APOLOGIZING

I THOUGHT
BEING APART
WAS YOU
AS MUCH
IT DID ME

THAT
WAS MY
HOPE



BECAUSE
YOU HAVE
HELP?

HELP?



I'M
SORRY

YAGASHI





第

42

話







I WAS CURIOUS
TO KNOW WHY
YOU'VE BEEN
INVESTIGATING
OUR FAMILY



THERE'S
A REASON
I CAME



カ
チ
カ

IT WASN'T
MY INTENTION,
BELIEVE ME, TO
PEE INTO SECRET
DETAILS ABOUT
YOUR FAMILY



I ENDED UP
FEELING LIKE
SOME FIFTY
LOWDOWN SLEAZY
FORGIVE ME

ALL I WANTED
WAS TO KNOW WHY
TAKASHIRO-SAN
KILLED HIMSELF



DO
TAKASHIRO-
SENSEI'S
SISTER...
HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
YOUR
BLINDNESS?

PLEASE
TELL ME!



IN THAT
CASE...

I NEED
TO KNOW
WHAT YOU
FOUNDED
OUT



I UNDERSTAND



IS HE
YOU MEAN--?
WHAT DO
YOU KNOW?



I
REALLY
AM
SORRY

IT
WAS WHAT
HAPPENED
TO FOUR
FATHERS
THAT LED
ME TO
THIS

WHILE TRYING TO
UNCOVER REASONS
FOR MY SISTER,
I CAME UP ON
SOME INFORMATION
ABOUT THE DISEASE



A DISEASE
THAT MAKES
YOU CREAM
BLOOD?

AND
ALSO

THAT YOU
WERE BORN
WITH A HEAVY
HEART AND...



I RELAY ABOUT
YOUR SYNDROME.
IT IS VERY STRANGE,
BUT IT SIGHT
SEEMS ME AS
BEING TERRIBLE

BUT I WONDER
IF THAT SOME-
THING YOU
WANT TO KEEP
FROM OTHERS?



NOT ONLY THAT,
BUT WHY WOULD
HE COMMIT SUICIDE
ONLY TO LEAVE YOU
TO FEND ALL ALONE
AGAINST YOUR
ILLNESS?



WHY? WHY
ARE YOU SO
OPPRESSED WITH
FATIGUE?



PLEASE
TELL
ME

WHAT WAS
THE **REAL**
REASON
FOR YOUR
FATHER'S
SUICIDE?



DID YOU
LOVE HIM?



NOTHING
IT'S
JUST
WELL

AS I TOLD
YOU BEFORE,
HE TOOK
SUCH GOOD
CARE OF
ME.



BUT...

IT WOULDN'T
LIKE HE COULD
PROTECT ME
FROM MY
PAINFULNESS!



FATHER
KILLED HIMSELF
BECAUSE OF ME
IT'S TRUE.



OH! OH,
NO, IT'S
NOT LIKE
THAT!

I HAD
SERIOUS
APPRECIATION
FOR HIM!





FATHER
FEEP...

...BECAUSE
HE COULD NO
LONGER FEEP
IT'S HANJIEK.









NO!

LET GO! I CAN'T!



I'LL
NEVER SEE
YOU AGAIN!

IF I
LET GO...



*Yagashiki's
scent...*

*Faintly
sweet*



THE FIRST
TIME I SAW YOU
WAS IN THE ART
ROOM AFTER
SCHOOL





IT WASN'T
TIL WE HAD A
CLASS TOGETHER
A YEAR AGO THAT
I LEARNED
YOUR NAME

YOU WERE
ALWAYS IN
THERE ALONE,
ALWAYS
DRAWING



I COULDN'T
HELP BUT BE
FASCINATED BY
THE SOLITARY
GIRL WHO NEVER
SMILED

YOU WERE
ALWAYS SO QUIET,
ALWAYS FAR LONGER
IN THE SCHOOLYARD



I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW TO
APPROACH HER SO
I KEPT MY DISTANCE
AND WATCHED HER
FROM FAR AWAY...
ALL DAY

BUT BY
THE TIME OUR
ONES MET

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I
WAS FEELING
OR WHAT IT
MEANT

I HAD
TO KEEP
HER AWAY
FROM ME
IF ONLY TO
KEEP HER
SAFE

BEFORE I KNEW
IT, SHE WAS
WATCHING ME
RIGHT BACK

..EVER
FORGET
YOU!

THERE'S
NO WAY
I COULD..

I'M
YOUR'S





HE
COULDN'T
NOT...
...FEEL
IT'S NERVOUS?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
BY THAT?



I HAD DRIVEN
FARHER INTO
A CORNER...



MY
STORAGE
ITSELF WAS
TOO HEAVY
A BURDEN
ON HIM





HE COULD
NEVER BETRAY
HIS MEMORY



FATHER...

...LOVED
HIS MOTHER MORE
THAN YOU CAN
IMAGINE



THAT
PERHAPS
HIM HE KILLED
HIMSELF...
TO SAVE
HIMSELF

HE
CONTINUED
TO PROTECT
HIMSELF,
SEEING
MOTHER
IN ME

MY DISEASE IS SOMETHING
PASSED DOWN
ONLY THROUGH
THE TAKASHIRO
BLOOD

THE
DISEASE YOU
RESEARCHED
MAY SOUND
SIMILAR,
BUT IT'S
SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT

HOW
COULD
THAT BE?

RETREATAL
AND
RECEPTION?

I'M AFRAID I
REALLY DON'T
UNDERSTAND

FATHER MARRIED
MOTHER FULLY
AWARE OF THE
FAMILY CURSE

TAKASHIRO
IS MY
MOTHER'S
FAMILY
NAME

IT'S THE ONLY
WAY TO KEEP
OUR DISEASE
HIDDEN AND
CONFINED

THAT IS
WHY THOSE
INFECTED MUST
ISOLATE
THEMSELVES
AWAY FROM
SOCIETY

THE ORIGINAL
DIFFERENCE IS
WHEN OUR KING
HANT'S BLOOD
HE BECAME
VIOLENT HE
WILL ATTACK
OTHERS TO
GET IT



FATHER BECAME
PELOPUS AND
CAME TO THINK
OF ME AS HIS
REPLACEMENT



THEN
MY MOTHER
DIED

I BEGAN
TO SLOWLY
RESEMBLE
HER MORE
AND MORE



DOES
THAT
SATISFY
YOU?

THIS IS
THE TRUTH
BEHIND MY
FATHER'S
DEATH



AND IN
THE END
HE CHOSE
DEATH

BUT
OVER
TIME HE
REALIZED
HIS OWN
FOOLISH-
NESS



IT
APPROPRIATE
IF YOU
RESPECT MY
WISHES AND
INVESTIGATE
NO FURTHER

I WOULD
TO END
THE SEARCH'S
AWKWARD
PLOTLINE
WITH ME

ALSO,
I MUST ASK
YOU TO KEEP
THESE DETAILS
SECRET

FATHER
FELL VICTIM
TO HIS DESIRES
HE WAS A
WEAK MAN



















Sigh...



ARE YOU
TELLING ME...
MY MOTHER IS
STILL ALIVE?



ALL OF IT

I NEED TO KNOW
EVERYTHING
YOU FOUND OUT



YOU REALLY
NEVER KNOW?



DO YOU
HAVE ANY
PROOF OF
THIS?

I'VE GOT
TO KNOW...
I'VE A
RIGHT TO
KNOW.

I LOOKED
INTO YOUR
FAMILY
REGISTER

I DON'T
FEEL RIGHT
DOING IT,
BUT

報告書

先月、ご依頼頂きました調査の件で
下の様な結果が
で、ここにご報告いたします

THOSE ARE
COPIES

WHY DID SENSEI
NOT TELL YOU
WHY DID HE KEEP
YOUR MOTHER'S
DISAPPEARANCE
A SECRET?

IF THIS IS TRUE,
THEN SENSEI'S
SUICIDE BECOMES
EVEN STRANGER.
HARDER TO
UNDERSTAND

FOURTEEN
YEARS AGO,
TAKASHIRO
HONDO-SAN
DISAPPEARED



SHE SLIT HER
NECK UNDER
THE SAKURA
TREE



MOTHER
IS DEAD!

SHE
KILLED
HERSELF.

I SAW
IT WITH
MY OWN
EYES.



LIES!



THE
TAKASHIMOS
HAVE A FAMILY
GRANDEUR
IN KENYA.
AM I RIGHT?

BUT HER
BROTHERS WERE
NEVER BATTERED
THUS, WERE
THEY?



I STILL HAVE
NIGHTMARES
ABOUT IT.



DOES
YOUR
MOTHER
HAVE A
GRAVE? DO
YOU KNOW
WHERE IT
IS?

!



THE DEATH
IS THAT IS
SOMETHING
THAT'S ALWAYS
HUNG OVER
ME

IT'S
TRUE THE
TAKASHIRO
HOUSE HAS
A GRAVE-
SITE
BUT
FATHER
ALWAYS
TOOK
CHARGE OF
TENDING
TO IT.



I KNOW
NOTHING
MORE TO
THIS DAY

WHO WAS OR
HAPPY? PERHAP
THOSE FATHER
TOOK WITH HIM
TO HIS OWN
GRAVE



I LEARNED
TO LIVE IN MY
MEMORIES OF HER
WANTING TO
KNOW NOTHING
MORE

WITH
FATHER,
YOU COULDN'T
SO MUCH AS
MENTION
MOTHER'S
NAME

IT WAS LIKE
AN UNFORCED
AGREEMENT



YOUR
MOTHER
DO YOU
REMEMBER
MUCH ABOUT
HER?



I
LOVED
HER
PERHAPS
EVEN
MORE

I REMEMBER
SHE WAS A
WOMAN OF FEW
WORDS, AND
SHE LOVED ME
SO MUCH

SHE WAS
A KIND AND
GENTLE WOMAN



STAY
AWAY,
GIZUMA



I INHERITED
MY LONELINESS
FROM
MOTHER

PORT COME IN HERE



PORT LOOK AT
YOUR MOTHER

part
where







SHALL
WE PLAY
TOGETHER?

WELL, LITTLE
ONE, WHOSE
CHILD ARE YOU?



MOTHER...



十月
九月



Deep
inside my
memories...



There's
something
buried that
I don't want
to face.

WHAT'S
WROG?

CHIEKA-SAN?







My attack is
gone. It was
Mangasha's
blood that
stopped it.





No...

In the back of my mind, I already knew.



I thought only Chayana's blood could drive off my symptoms.

She told me only her blood...

I've been dying for Yaegashi's blood.



From the time I had that dream.

I tried so hard to resist... to not destroy her life, too.



But it's done... the one act I never wanted to commit.



CHIZUNA-SAN?

CAN I
HELP YOU?



CHIZUNA ..



What is this?
What is this
I'm feeling?





MOTHER...



MOTHER IS
FEAR.





WHEN AN
ATTACK HAPPENS,
VICTIMS GET
VIOLENT AND OUT
OF CONTROL.



OH,
GOD...

THIS MEDICINE
EXPRESSED
MY ATTACKS.
IT'S ALL I KNOW
THAT WORKS.



BUT
IT'S ALSO
DESTROYING
MY BODY.



AND
THAT
MEDI-
CINE?

BECAUSE
YOU'RE
A NURSE,
YOU MIGHT
UNDERSTAND.







IT'S BEST IF
YOU FORGET
ABOUT US

STEPPING FORWARD
INTO OUR WORLD
WILL ONLY MAKE
YOU MISERABLE

YOU MIGHT
SEE US AS
DANGEROUS, BUT,
MADE UP WORDS...

...WE'VE NEVER
HARMED ANYONE



HE BOUND HIMSELF
TO A CURSED
FAMILY, BECOMING
ENDEWELED BY
ITS SECRETS,
HE CHOSE DEATH

FATHER FELL
PREY TO THE
TAKASHIRO
MOURN

NOW DON'T YOU
FEEL SHAMEFUL FOR
YOUR OBSESSION
WITH SUCH A
PATHEPIC MAN?





*Did Mother
disappear*



*I
remember
it like
it was
yesterday.*



She died.

*I saw her
die under the
sacred tree.*



My memories
drag me to
the edge of
an abyss. A
step further
and I'll fall.

But, aside
from that,
I remember
nothing. In that
instant, it all
goes black.

Whenever
I see that
blood-red
magma,
I feel an
ethereal
coming, what?









WHICH MEANS
SHE MIGHT
STILL BE ALIVE

HOW
DISAPPEARED?



OUR
FAMILY
REGISTER
WOULDN'T
LIE ABOUT
HER
DEATH

BUT...
HOW
COULD
THAT
BE?

AFTER ALL
THIS TIME...

OKAY...
SO WHAT
IF IT'S
TRUE?

IT'S
GOTTA
BE A
MISTAKE

SHE'S
PUTTING
YOU ON



WHY DID FATHER
NEVER TELL ME
THE TRUTH
ABOUT MOTHER?

THE REAL
QUESTION IS
WHY IT'S COME
TO THIS.



IT CAN'T
BE...

MOTHER
COULD NEVER
HAVE SURVIVED
ON HER OWN.



STILL, WHAT
OTHER ASSUMPTION
CAN YOU MAKE
BUT SHE'S DEAD?
SHE'S BEEN GONE
TOO LONG.

I DON'T
GET IT
AT ALL.



WHAT YOU'RE
HAVING A HARD
TIME WITH IS
THAT FATHER KEPT
SOMETHING
FROM YOU.



AND WHAT
DIFFERENCE
HAS IT MADE?
I MEAN,
TO US.

IT'S NOT
LIKE SHE'D
HAVE EVER
TURNED UP.
WE'D STILL
BE HERE
ALONE.

DAD DON'T
TELL YOU
MOTHER
MIGHT BE
ALIVE, BUT
WOULD IT
HAVE EVEN
MATTERED?





FATHER FALL
FEEL TO THE
TAKENED
HOUR



*So much
false
emotion.*

*I'd never
have guessed
a 17-year-old
could be so
assured and
iron-willed.*

*DON'T YOU FEEL
STUPID FOR YOUR
OPPRESSION WITH SUCH
A PATHETIC HEART?*



*She's right.
No one else can
get involved.*

*The
world she
lives in
demands
inner
strength.*

*WE'RE LAMPS WITH
MOVING FACES
WITH MOVING MINDS.*









This is
the last
picture taken
of Mother.



She died not
long after it
was taken.

She was
a totally
different
person when
she had an
attack.



Or maybe her
death was
sudden and
unexpected.



Or this
time she
must've been
contemplating
death
ahead...

...and
leaving
Father
behind.

DON'T
COME IN
HERE!



Not
I can't
do this.
The more
I think of
her, the
closer
I come to
another
attack.















BUT
NOTAGE WILL
SAVE YOUR
SUFFERING, AND
WE WILL FIND
PEACE
TOGETHER.

YOU'RE
POORER
TO SUFFER
MY FATE

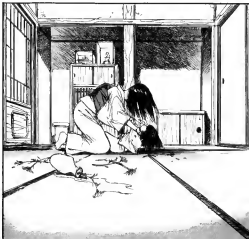
THEN YOU'LL
CURSE THE
DAY YOU
WERE BORN

Stop -
please -
...

Martha--

YOU
FOOL
CHILD









Mother...







I'M SORRY FOR
INTERRUPTING,
DOCTOR, BUT
TAKASHIRO-SAN
IN ROOM 409
IS ACTING
STRANGELY

THERE'S
NO HARM
FOR WHAT'S
CAUSING
THIS

SHE WAS BORN
WITH A WEAK HEART
OCCASIONALLY,
ONCE TIME, HEART
PATIENTS CAN
RECOVER ENOUGH
STRENGTH TO LIVE
OUT A NORMAL LIFE



タカシロ







HOW
COULD
FATHER
DO IT?

HOW
COULD
HE LOVE
ME?



WHERE
IS MOTHER
RESTING?



WHY...?



I
REMEM-
BER IT
ALL
NOW!

ATTEND
ME!

DON'T
LIE TO
ME!



CALM
DOWN

YOU'VE
HAD A
NIGHT-
MARE.



LET
GO OF
ME.

IF YOU
LIE TO ME
AGAIN, I'M
JUMPING
OUT RIGHT
NOW!

ORZURA!

CHI-
ZUNA!

IT'S
REAL!
IT'S
TRUE!

NO.

CHI-
ZUNA!

YOU NEED
TO CALM
DOWN.

HURRY!
LET'S PUT
HER BACK
IN BED.

CHI-
ZUNA!



HER FATHER,
TAKASHIRO-
SENN, INFLUENCED HER
TO KEEP IT
LOCKED

SHE LOOKED
THAT MEMORY
DEEP INSIDE
HERSELF

HE KEPT TELLING HER
OVER AND OVER THAT
HER MOTHER COMMITTED
SUICIDE, AND THAT'S HOW
SHE FOUND HER. ALL THIS
SO CHIRANA-CHAN COULD
GO BACK TO BEING
A LITTLE GIRL



THAT WAS
A SHOCK,
WASNT IT?



SO THAT
ABOMINABLE SCENE
THAT TURNED ITSELF
INTO HER AID WAS
SAVED BY HIS
EXPLANATION...
THAT WHAT SHE'D
WITNESSED WAS
A SUICIDE.

UNDER
THAT
SAKURA
TREE

YOSHI BURIED
HOMOKO-SAN'S
BODY IN THE
BACKYARD



HE THEN FILED
AN OFFICIAL
REPORT
DECLARING
MOMOKO-SAN
MISSING.

ALL THAT
TO PROTECT
CHISAKA-CHAN
AND THE FAMILY'S
GOOD NAME—
AND IT'S DARK
SECRET.



NOW
THAT MR.
MEMOSES
HAVE
SURFACED.

THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN DO TO
EASE THE
PAIN.



TAKASHIO-
SENSEI TOLD
ME THIS
HIMSELF...

A WEEK
BEFORE HE
TOOK HIS
OWN LIFE.



WHAT EFFECT
THIS WILL
HAVE ON HER
PSYCHOLOGICALLY,
I CAN'T SAY.

MY ADVISE?
PREPARE
FOR THE
WORST.









SHE MUST'VE
KNOWN WHAT
I'D DO



... I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
BEEN BORN



I... KILLED
MOTHER
AND I POKE
FATHER TO
SUICIDE



FATHER'S
MOTHER
WAS RIGHT

I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
BEEN BORN









409
古城千砂
Chitose Shirohito







SORRY I KEPT YOU
BT. YOU MUST BE
EXHAUSTED!



DOESN'T
REALIZE
IT WAS
ALREADY
EVENING!



SASAKI-
SAN..



NEXT TIME, I'LL
ROUND UP MORE
CLASSMATES.
AND WE'LL
ALL VISIT.

DON'T
MENTION IT.

アハハハ

















DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME
AND SCHOOL.



IT'LL BE FINE
YOU CAN
GO BACK TO
SCHOOL.



IT'S
TOO
BAD.
I WAS
NEVER
ABLE TO
MAKE IT
TO THE
FESTI-
VAL.



THERE'S
ALWAYS
NEXT YEAR.



WHEN THE
YEAR STARTED,
I KNEW I DIDN'T
HAVE A CHANCE
OF GETTING
THROUGH ALL
OF IT.

BUT
YOU DO
YOU CAN
STILL
RECOVER.



WELL,
I DO.

YOU'VE
STILL GOT
A CHANCE,
KAZUMA,
TO FULLY
RECOVER.



.....



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT
I'M
SERIOUS

IT'S NOT
LIKE I SIT
AROUND
HERE
HOPING
SCHOOL



KADUNA

SINCE
MY MENDERS
AWAKENED,
I THINK I'VE
REALIZED
SOMETHING
ELSE ABOUT
MOTHER



MOTHER'S
WORD WAS
STRONG
RIGHT UP 'TIL
THE END

MY FEELING
IS THAT...



SHE'D
ALREADY MADE
HER PEACE
WITH DEATH

I SENSE
THAT, AS
SHE WAS
COPIING
WITH HER
ILLNESS

THAT'S WHY SHE
TRIED
TO TAKE
ME WITH
HER

LIVING
WITH THE
DISEASE
HASN'T
REALLY
LIVING



KADUNA



KADUNA

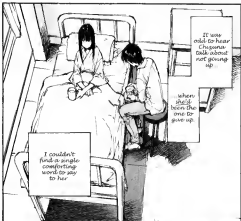


DON'T
GIVE UP ON
YOURSELF



YOU
CAN
STILL
ESCAPE
YOU
STILL
HAVE A
CHANCE







第

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話









ALL TRY TO PROTECT
CHIDORI-CHAN AND
THE FAMILY'S GOOD
NAME AND ITS DARK
SECRET.



There's
nothing
but
madness
here.





...

I'm still
alive
because of
Chigusa.



SHE TRIED TO TAKE
ME WITH HER.



In
that
mad-
house...

my
mother
fought
to save
her
society.

But it
caused my
father to
lose his
what a
strange
chain of
events.



If

If she
isn't
around
any
more...

what
do I
have
left?
Any
thing?



*Front but
unmistakable*

*The smell of
blood*







SORRY
ABOUT
THAT...

NO? I THINK
I'LL BE
OKAY

HAVE
YOU FILLED
YOURSELF
TOGETHER?



I'VE GOTTA
EXPECT THE
SMELL OF
BLOOD

THIS IS A
HOSPITAL,
AFTER ALL

I LET
MY GUARD
DOWN



CHIZUNA-KUN
IS WORRIED
ABOUT YOU

YOU'VE
GOTTEN
GATEY THEN
LATELY



WHAT
IS IT?



PON'T
TELL
CHIZURU.

SHE
DOESN'T
NEED TO
HEAR THIS.



IS SUFFERING
YOUR ATTACKS
CAUSING YOU TO
LOSE WEIGHT?



FROM
THE
STRESS,
I MEAN.

THAT'S IF
YOUR BODY
COULDN'T
GIVE OUT
FIRST.



LATELY,
AS LONG AS
MY SYMPTOMS
ARE MILD, I'VE
BEEN ABLE TO
SUFFER ON
MY OWN.

IF I
SLOWLY
CONDITION
MYSELF TO
THEM...



THE GOAL
IS TO GET SO
WELL-CONDITIONED
TO THE DISEASE,
THAT YOU REGAIN
YOUR PHYSICAL
HEALTH.

I KNOW
IT'S A LOT
EASIER SAID
THAN DONE.

...I THINK
I'LL BE ABLE
TO CONTROL
THEM
COMPLETELY
ONE DAY.















FROM HERE
ON IN, SHE'LL
UNDERGO HOME
CARE UNDER MY
SUPERVISION.

CHISUNA-KUN
WISHED TO BE
RELEASED.



AT
THIS POINT,
I THINK IT'S
BEST TO LET
HER BE
WHEREVER
SHE'LL FEEL
MOST COM-
FORTABLE.

AT THE HOSPITAL,
I CAN KEEP TABS
ON HER SYMPTOMS,
BUT SHE'S
MISERABLE HERE.



RIGHT?

THAT
CERTAINLY
SOUNDS
LIKE
CHISUNA.









CHIZURU!

BUT I JUST
DON'T WANT
TO STAY
IN THAT
HOSPITAL

I WANTED
TO DIE HERE
IN THIS HOUSE



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT

I'M SORRY
TO KEEP
YOU FROM
SCHOOL



DEATH
HAS
FOLLOWED
ME AROUND
SINCE I
WAS A
CHILD

AND
YOU KNOW
WHAT?
DEATH
DIDN'T
FEARTEEN
ME

IT'S ALL RIGHT
I'VE MADE
PEACE WITH IT



YOU'RE
ALL I
WORRY
ABOUT

AFTER I
DIE, I WANT
YOU TO
RETURN TO
THE EPAS' HOME

Over the next month,

Chigusa barely ate anything.



ALL MY
HOPES REST
WITH YOU
NOW.

YOU'VE
BEEN FREE OF
ANY SEVERE
ATTACKS FOR
MONTHS.



.....

RESIGNMENT
FROM THE DV
JOB ISN'T
ENOUGH YOU
MUST EAT





AS A DOCTOR,
WHAT WOULD
YOU SAY?

HOW MUCH
TIME DO YOU
THINK I'VE
LEFT?



I KNOW,
I KNOW.

BUT
I CAN'T
BRING
MYSELF
TO EAT.

FOR KNOW
HOW MUCH
KAZUNA-KUN IS
ABOUT YOU?



I WANT
THE
TRUTH---

THE ONLY
TRUTH I
KNOW IS
YOU BETTER
LEAVE
BACK
DOWN

CALM
DOWN,
YOU'LL
STEAL
YOUR
SYSTEM



IF YOU
CONTINUE
LIKE THIS,
I DON'T HAVE
MUCH HOPE



KAZUNA-
CHAN



ANYONE
ME





HER CONDITION'S
DETERIORATING
SLOWLY.

HE
COULD HAVE
A CRITICAL
EPISODE ANY
DAY... ANY
MINUTE.



AS THE BODY
WEAKENS, THE
SPIRIT OFER
WEAKENS
ALONG WITH IT.



IF THAT
HAPPENS, I'M
RE-ADMITTING
HER TO THE
HOSPITAL.

THERE'S
NO POINT
SUSPECTING
ANYTHING FOR
HIS. SHE KNOWS
HER BUSINESS
ALL TOO WELL.



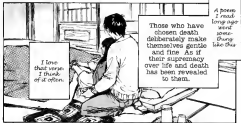
NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
I WON'T LET
HER DIE.

NO
MATTER
WHAT









I love
that verse.
I think
of it often.

Those who have
chosen death
deliberately make
themselves gentle
and fine. As if
their supremacy
over life and death
has been revealed
to them.

A poem
I read
long ago
was
some-
thing
like this.



As if death
has taken
root inside
of her,
showing its
white face.

Chigasaki's
skin is so
pale now.

Soft...



She's still
beautiful,
though.

But it's not
an organic
beauty any-
more, but
the beauty
of a doll.



Chigusa
will fade
from me
very soon.

But I don't
feel sad. It's
like none of
this is real.

No
sadness
because
nothing
has gone
on.

But...



...watching
her in
so much
pain is
agonizing.

It's so
bad, I
can't
help but
hope...

...that
the end is
quick and
merciful.





第 46 話

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第 46 話









*I WAS JUST A CHILD...
BUT I SHOULD NEVER
HAVE BEEN BOY*



*MY MOTHER, MY FATHER...
I KILLED THEM BOTH*



*WHY DIDN'T YOU
LET ME GO?*



*I CAN'T GO WHERE
YOU'RE GOING*



LET ME GO







POWT...

PLEASE...
POWT...



KAZUNA

LET
ME CALL
MURDER-
SAN

IT'S
BEST FOR
YOU, I
PROMISE



POWT...

KAZUNA,
POWT
LEAVE ME

STAY WITH
ME TONIGHT



THERE'S NOTHING
MURDER-SAN
CAN DO TO ALTER
MY FATE NOW



IF IT
WERE
ALLOWED
US TO
GET SO
CLOSE...

...POWT HAD
BEEN BETTER
OFF. YOU'D HAVE
BEEN IN PAIN,
BUT POWT WOULD
HAVE SUPPORTED YOU
BY KILLING PEOPLE



KAZUNA...
I'M SO SORRY

FORGIVE ME



I WANTED
YOU ALL FOR
MYSELF

I SAW THIS
HAPPENING
LONG AGO

BUT I
COULDN'T
HELP IT

HELPED ME
FINALLY ESCAPE
FROM FATHER'S
SHADOW

BEING
AROUND
YOU

I LOVE
YOU... AS A
PRISONER...
NOT AS A
REPLACEMENT
FOR FATHER

I MEAN
THAT I
SWEAR IT
ON MY
LIFE

THANK YOU



BUT NOW, I
RELEASE YOU
AND GIVE YOU
BACK TO HER

EVER SINCE
I MET YOU,
I'VE HAD YOU
ALL TO MYSELF



I HAVE NO
REGRETS,
CHIZUNA

I'M GLAD
HE BECAME
CLOSE, AND
I'M GLAD
I GOT TO
LOVE YOU.



TO
YAGASAKI-SAN



EVER IF
IT WAS OUT
OF PITY
I'M HAPPY YOU
WERE HERE

THANK'S FOR
ALL YOU DID
FOR ME



IT
WASNT
PITY!



ARE YOU?

WHO



I WAS
PRAISE TO
YOU BECAUSE
OF WHO YOU
ARE

WE'RE
GOING
TO LIVE
TOGETHER

IT WASNT
OUT OF PITY
OR BECAUSE
I DESERD
YOUR BLOOD

I'M
WITH YOU
BECAUSE
I WANT
TO BE

WE'RE A FAMILY
OF VAMPIRES.

COME
ALONG



I'LL
PROVE IT
TO YOU



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO SAY
ANYMORE



REMEMBER
THAT TABLET
YOU GAVE
ME ONCE?

CHIEF



THAT'S RIGHT
LIKE YOU SAID,
I HELP ON
TO IT

YOU SEE,
YOU'VE BECOME
VERY
CENTRAL
TO ME





I'M NO GOOD
UNLESS
YOU'RE HERE

Now I
know
why



WHEN YOU
WERE AT THE
HOSPITAL, I
HAD AN ATTACK.
MAYBE—SAY
SAVED ME.

I DIDN'T TELL
YOU 'CAUSE
I KNEW YOU'D
HATE IT.



Because, ever
since we met,
Death has
always been
our third
companion.

I know why
Chigusa
dying felt
so weird
to me.



I'LL BE
WITH YOU
SOON

When I finally
accepted
Chigusa's
death, I felt
like I was
strong enough
to accept my
own.

I wasn't
and
because
I know
I would
follow.



*From the
moment
I tasted
Chipman's
blood.*

*...our fates
were bound
together. What
I did next was
inevitable.*





I'LL MAKE
US SOME
COFFEE.

SAME
HERE.



I JUST--
I COULDN'T
FALL BACK
TO SLEEP.



OH?
ABOUT
WHAT?

I HAD THE
STRANGEST
DREAM.



I REMEMBER
THINKING HE'S
NEVER COMING
BACK, AND I WAS
JUST SEEING
HIM OFF.

HE SAW HIM
WALKING
AWAY WITH
HIS BACK
TURNED
TO ME.

THIS TIME
I DREAMT
ABOUT
SHOJI-SAN.



WHY
WITHOUT HIM?



I DON'T
KNOW



WHEN I LOST
SIGHT OF HIM,
I SUDDENLY GOT
WORRIED ABOUT
CHIZUNA-CHAN



BUT WHY?
WAIT, THAT'S IT
I WAS WORRIED
BECAUSE THEY'D
BE WITHOUT
HER FATHER



I DO REMEMBER
THAT SHIZUNA-SAN,
FOR WHATEVER
REASON, WAS AHEAD
OF CHIZUNA-CHAN

I UNDERSTOOD
EVERYTHING IN
THE DREAM
BUT WHEN
I AWOK, NONE
OF IT MADE
SENSE ANYMORE



I KNOW
SO
SHE ASKED

BUT...



SHIZUNA-
SAN WAS
ALWAYS
POTING ON
CHIZUNA-
CHAN

ANYBODY
OF HIS
OWN
PARENT-
AGE?











IT WAS
ABOUT
TAKASHIRO...



THEN HE ASKED
ME TO GO LOOK
IN ON TAKASHIRO
I'VE BEEN A
WORKER ABOUT
HIM LATELY
ANYWAY, SO
I SAID SURE



FURE'S GOT
TOO MANY
ABSENCES,
PLUS HE NEVER
TOOK THE
MID-TERMS



OH...



IF HE CARED
ABOUT PASSING,
HE'D HAVE AT
LEAST MADE
SOME EFFORT
TO RECONNECT

BUT I DOUBT
HE'LL EVER
SHOW HERE
AGAIN

THEY KNOW HE'S
GOT TROUBLES AT
HOME, SO THEY
WANT HIM TO TALK
THINGS OVER WITH
THE STAFF FACE-
TO-FACE



HE'S
PROBABLY
TAKEN IT
ALL ON
HIMSELF

IF HE DOESN'T
COME BACK
BEFORE THE END
OF THE YEAR,
I'M SURE HE'LL
QUIT SCHOOL



I KNOW HIS
SISTER'S
REALLY SICK

AND HE'S
THE ONLY ONE
TAKING CARE
OF HER



I wish I
could tell
you more,
Kinschtein-
kun.

But I made
a promise,
and I'll never
break it.



I THINK
SO, TOO.

I WONDER
WHY HE
SUDDENLY
STOPPED
COMING.



WOULDN'T HE
SAY HE'D BE
AROUND FOR
THE CULTURAL
FESTIVAL?



BUT IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED. THE
SITUATION
CALLED FOR
IT.

I KNOW
HE'D FLIP IF
ANY OF US
TRIED TO
INTERVENE.



YAGCROW-SAN,
YOU WANNA TAG
ALONG* TO MY
HOUSE.



I won't
tell anyone.

Just talking
about it would
be making
light of it.

LATER

I'LL GET YOU
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS

OKAY

GUESS
I'M FLYING
SOLO, THEN

BECAUSE
I...

I'M GONNA
WAIT FOR
HIM TO
MAKE UP
HIS MIND

UH...

I BETTER
NOT

BE-
CAUSE...



OH,
FIRST BALL
IS ABOUT
TO RING



That's so
weird

I just got
the feeling
Takahara-san
was standing
right here



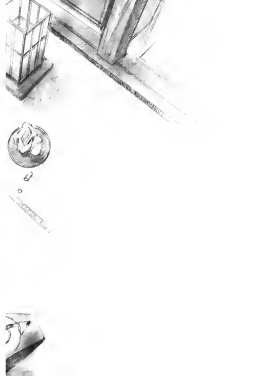
Though
I wish it
were true

And, I'm
more out
of it this
morning
than I
thought











SPRING IS
ENDING.



THE
SAKURAI
TREE

WHEN
THE FLOWER
PETALS FALL,
IT MAKES THE
SUNLIGHT SEEM
EVEN MORE
CAREFUL.







WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF YOUR
NEW "SCHEDULE"?

TOO EARLY
TO TELL YET

KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE,
PERVERT!

YAGASHI-
SAN?

I WAS
HOPE YOU
COULD TAKE
IT TO HIM

YOU'RE
GOING TO
SEE HIM
TODAY,
AREN'T
YOU?

OH, I BURNED
SOME TUNES
ON THIS CD

KINOSHITA-
KUN

YOU THINK?

I THINK
THEY'LL FALL
THROUGH
ALL RIGHT

THINGS
MUST BE
REALLY
ROUGH
FOR HER

OF
COURSE









FIRST DAY, HUH?
THAT MEANS IT
WOULD'VE BEEN
MY FIRST DAY,
TOO, AT EAST
HIGH

SORRY
I CAN'T OFFER
YOU A CHAIR,
BUT, HEHE,
HAVE A SEAT
NEXT TO ME.



Y-YES.
IT WAS



IT'S SO
DEADLY
IN HERE

NO TV,
INTERNET
NOT EVEN
A RADIO



I WISH
I COULD
LISTEN TO
IT HERE

I'LL GET
TO IT WHEN
THEY LET ME
OUTTA HERE



WELL,
THAT'S 'N
I PASSED ALL
MY EXAMS



YOU
WOULD'VE
PASSED THEM
IF YOU
TAKEN THEM.



IT'S FROM
KUROSHITA-
KUN

HE'S AT
THE SAME
SCHOOL
AS ME

OH,
HEHE...



IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE
I HAD SOME
STRANGE,
UNKNOWN
PHASE

ALL I KNOW IS
WHAT THE DOCTOR
TELLS ME, THAT I
WENT INTO SHOCK
AFTER AN ALLERGIC
REACTION TO SOME
MEDICINE I TOOK.
MAYBE I'VE BEEN A
HELL OF A JOKE



THEY MESS
WITH MY HEAD
WITH WHAT
THEY CALL
"INSPECTIONS"
EVERY COUPLE
OF DAYS

THEY'RE
MONITORING
FOX, LIKE,
AFTEREFFECTS
OF SOME-
THING



THERE
MAYBE EVEN
A CLOCK. I
COULDN'T
TELL YOU
WHAT TIME
IT IS

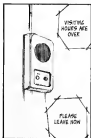
I FEEL A LOT
BETTER, BUT I
STILL CAN'T GO
OUTSIDE. THEY
WON'T EVER LET
ME OPEN A
WINDOW MORE
THAN A CRACK



YOU'LL BE
ALL RIGHT.

YOU'LL GET
BETTER AND
WALK OUT
OF HERE.







AHH...
REALITY?



THANKS FOR
STOPPING BY
YOU MADE
MY DAY



HMM?

YAGGASHI,
YOU HARDLY
EVER SMILE
IT'S SOMETHING
I DON'T SEE
ENOUGH OF



AND SAY
"HI" TO
KINOSHITA
FOR ME



HEY, YOU
SMILED





IT WAS
JUST AS
YOU SAID

HE WAS
THAT
CARELESS
GUY I USED
TO KNOW
IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL



HOW
WAS IT?

I MEAN,
HOW'S
KAZUNA?



HE'S SLOWLY
RECLAIMING HIS
MEMORY. BUT,
FOR NOW, HIS
MEMORIES TAKE
HIM UP ONLY
TO HIS MIDDLE
SCHOOL YEARS

HE ALMOST
LOST HIM. WHEN
HE REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS,
HE COULDN'T EVER
RECOGNIZE US



THERE'S
A LOT RIPPING
ON HOW HARD
HE WORKS
AT IT.

THE
DOCTOR
DIDN'T
KNOW,
BUT WE'RE
HOPEFUL



WILL HE
RECOVER?

WITHOUT THOSE RAP MEMORIES

...HE'S GOT A CHANCE AT BEING A NORMAL TEENAGER



IN OTHER WORDS, WE'D LIKE TO LEAVE HIS IMMEDIATE PAST IN THE PAST.

IF HE RECOVERED MEMORIES OF IT, HE'D BE IN A LOT OF ALL OVER AGAIN.

I PROMISED YOU OVER BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR TO YOU

FAGGASHI-SAN...



WE DON'T INTEND TO AWAKEN MEMORIES OF HIS ILLNESS.

...YOU WANT TO Wipe THE SLATE CLEAR OF THIS PAST YEAR?



SO WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS...



THIS TIME, WITH ALL OF US TOGETHER

I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS RELIVING THAT PAST AHEAD





FOR INSTANCE,
IF KAZUMA
RELAPSES INTO
HIS ILLNESS

WE'RE
READY
FOR IT



LET'S DECIDE
THAT BEFORE
WHEN WE GET
TO IT

BUT WE MUST
BE HONEST WITH
HIM AND STAY
STRONG



WE KNOW SO
LITTLE ABOUT
HIM. WE HARDLY
FEEL LIKE
PARENTS

BUT THE
DECEAL HAS
STRENGTHENED
US., AND WE
NOW HAVE A
REAL PARENT-
CHAP HOND



HOW DIFF?

THE ONE WHO'S
SUFFERED THE
MOST IS AWARE
OF ALL HE'S
GONE THROUGH



.....



.....









IT'S SO STRANGE

THE DAY IT
HAPPENED, I
FELT VAGUELY
TROUBLED AND
ANXIOUS



IF HE'D
BEEN FOUND
ANY LATER,
HE PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
BE STANDING
HERE

THE MEDICINE
HE TOOK WOULD'VE
ANYWAY, I'M SO
GLAD HE'S ALIVE



IS THAT
RIGHT?



IT SEEMS IN
ITS VICTIM'S
PSYCHOLOGY
IF IT CAN BE
OVERCOME, THE
PATIENT HAS
A CHANCE OF
LIVING A FULL
LIFE

THE
TAKAYASHI
DISEASE
IS NOT
BIOLOGICAL
IN NATURE
BUT PSYCHO-
PATHIC.

ANYWAY, I
COMPLETELY
UNDER-
STAND...

THE SPAY
PROCEDURE TO
STAVE OFF
KAZUMA'S
MEMORIES.



I JUST HOPE
HE NEVER
REMEMBERS
ANY OF IT.



IF HE RELAPSES,
HIS MEMORIES WILL
COME FLOODING
BACK TO HIM





IS IT BECAUSE
YOUR MEMORIES
OF CHIZUNA-SAN
ARE ALL THERE?



KAZUNA-KUN
WILL HEAR
IT. IT'S UP
TO HIM TO
DECIDE.

BUT I HOPE
HE'LL EVER BE
ALLOWED TO
GO HEAR IT
AGAIN.

IT'S THE
ONE THING
I WANT TO
TALK TO
HIS FAMILY
ABOUT.

IF IT WERE
UP TO ME,
I'D LET
THE PLACE
STAND.



THAT'S
TRUE.



THERE
IS STILL
THE
TAKA-
SHIRO
HOUSE.

I
WOULD
WANT
THAT
POWERTY
JIT.



I'M STILL
GETTING OVER
THE IDEA THAT MY
WORLD NO LONGER
HAS CHIZUNA-
SAN IN IT.



BUT,
OVER
TIME, I
CAME TO
FEEL LIKE
ONE OF
THEM.

I HADN'T
RELATED
TO ANY OF
THE TAKA-
SHIRO'S.



NOT JUST
CHIZUNA-
SAN.

THERE
ARE SO MANY
MEMORIES.
THERE ISN'T
A HOUR THAT
WOULDN'T
SUM UP HOW
I FEEL.

IT WAS ABOUT
A YEAR AGO...



OH, YES! THE
SAGARA TREE IN
THE TAKAWAKO'S
PARK NEVER LOST
ITS FLOWERS
THIS YEAR.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
SAGARA
FLOWERS





THE ROOM
IS LITTERED
WITH FLOWER
PETALS



LOOK'S
GOOD
ON YOU



HEY
STRANGER
HOW DO YOU
LIKE MY
UNIFORM?



YOU'LL
CATCH COLD
LYING THERE.



HERE



IT'S
A NEW
PAD
A NEW
LIFE.
WHAT
CHANGES
WILL IT
BRING?



SHE WON'T
LIVE A LONG
LIFE.

BUT
KAZURA-KUN
GAVE HER
A FULLER
AND MORE
FULFILLING
ONE



HAVING
KAZURA-
KUN IN
HER LIFE
MADE HER
BLOOM
... INTO
A YOUNG
WOMAN.



HAS
CHIZUNA-SAN
LIKE A YOUNGER
SISTER TO YOU,
MINASE-SAN?



I DON'T
THINK THERE
ARE WORDS TO
DESCRIBE WHAT
HE SHARED

NO
SHE WAS
MORE THAN
THAT



THEN
WERE YOU
JEALOUS OF
TAKASHIO-
KUN?

FROM THE
MOMENT I MET
HIM, I KNEW
I WAS OUT OF
THE PICTURE

STRANGELY,
I DON'T
RECALL
FEELING
JEALOUS



BUT ONE
THING'S
CERTAIN
I LOVED
HER

I LOVED HER
MORE THAN
ANYTHING



EVEN IF THAT
MEANT BEING
REJECTED
FROM HER LIFE

ALL I WANTED
WAS FOR HER
TO BE HAPPY.
THAT WAS
GOOD ENOUGH
FOR ME



NOW COULD
I COMPETE
WITH THAT?



BECAUSE
KAZUNA-KUN
WAS TOO
PERFECT A
REFLECTION OF
THEIR FATHER



BUT I WILL
TREASURE
HER IN MY
OWN WAY
FOREVER

YOU MAY NOT
UNDERSTAND



HER EXISTENCE
IMPACTED MY
LIFE DEEPLY

BUT WHAT
I WANTED
WAS OUT
OF MY REACH

I JUST
WISH I HAD THE
PLACE I
WANTED
IN HER
HEART



I FEEL
LIKE A
PART OF
ME IS LOST
FOREVER

BUT I DO
FEEL AT PEACE
I FEEL I FOUGHT
HARD AND WON
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL



BYE-BYE

GOODBYE, THEN



STILL,
WHAT I
WON ARE
MEMORIES

MEMORIES
THAT WILL
NEVER BE
DESTROYED
BY ANY
DISEASE.



I LEAVE
HIM IN YOUR
CARE.

CHIZURU-KUN
WANTED
KAZUURA-KUN
TO LIVE A FULL LIFE



I'LL DO
MY BEST.



Chisame-
san's
death...

...is locked
away in
the deepest
corner of
Takashiro-
kun's heart

When his
memories
awaken... will
he choose
her? Will
she tear us
apart?



OH, TAKASHIRO,
IT'S YOU!

I'M HERE IN
PLACE OF YOUR
AUNT MATSUO.
CONGRATULATIONS
ON FINALLY GETTING
OUTTA HERE. IT'S
YOUR BIG DAY!



TAKASHIRO-
KUN?



NEXT MONTH,
I'M FACING
AN ENTRANCE
EXAM.



I DON'T HAVE
ANY BAGS OR
ANYTHING.

I SEE
YOU TRAVEL
LIGHT.



OH, I
GROW,
LIKE, TWO
INCHES WHILE
I WAS IN THE
HOSPITAL.

WELL,
HUR,
CONSIDERING
I WAS UN-
CONSCIOUS
THE WHOLE
TIME!



I
GOTTA
GET MY
GEEK IN
GEAR.

YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA
HOW FAR
BEHIND IN MY
STUDIES I'VE
GOTTEN?



FOR
WHERE?



IT'S A
PRIVATE
BOYS' HIGH
SCHOOL.

IT'S
CHAPEL
HOLMBOE
ACADEMY.



WHY WOULD
YOU WORRY
ABOUT?

'CAUSE
YOU HAVE
SUCH A POOR
"LIFE SUCKS"
FACE!

Too bad.



*It's part of
our new
beginning
together*



羊のつた

完

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Congratulations on your six and a half years of work on the series. Do you have any thoughts now that it's over?

TOUME

I don't have any thoughts about it yet, just sadness and excitement. But I'm sure I'll have plenty of thoughts given some time and perspective.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

It seemed like the series went all according to plan, but maybe the plot expanded a little beyond the original scope?

TOUME

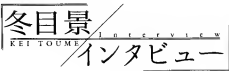
I had planned on it being a lot shorter, yes.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Did you have enough preparation to face the final chapter?

TOUME

I always want to spend a little more time on production, yes. In these cases, I think about adding more to the volume release.



EDITING DEPARTMENT

The last scene in the now-finished volume was very shocking. Did you plan that from the beginning?

TOUME

I pretty much knew what I was going to do.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

When you were starting the serialization, did Japanese items carry the theme from very early on?

TOUME

I wanted to create a story that incorporated traditional Japanese homes and clothing. And not a historical piece, but one set in modern times. I've been thinking about that for a long time.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

For serialization, the very first plot you showed us was set in an old boarding house, am I right?

TOUME

Yes. Yes, that's as it should be. An old building and a characters clad in classic Japanese clothing comes off (laughs). That's the sort of thing I wanted to show. That story was a comedy.

FOUMS

blows at all.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

And this was your intention from the start?

FOUMS

At the start, I didn't want to express it visually at all. That wait in volume 4, seen from the point-of-view of the work as a whole, is not a choice. I thought I could save it for there.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Looking back, do you think you succeeded at maintaining your tempo and flow of time?

FOUMS

There is no end to this. I wish I did a little more of that "type thoughts" really. There is no such thing as perfection. When I think about the time I had, the time that I used to its utmost, and that forgetful state of affairs around me, I think I was really happy.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

When you read the comics all at once, it seems like the pace and timing have been calculated out.

FOUMS

No. I haven't put that amount of calculation into it (laughs). Just, the story from one given point to another is tentatively outlined, and by and large I decide on a setting for that climax. It's a bit like waves floating around in my head.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

What is your personal favorite scene?

FOUMS

At the end of volume 1 where Chihiro sticks out her hand and tells Kazuo to drink her blood. I think that scene as soon as I draw it. That image had been in my mind since the beginning. The movie "Near Dark" has that image in it.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

You said earlier that you had wanted to do a vampire story. When you first talked about the kind of vampire story you wanted to do, I thought that it was visually inspired by the movie "Near Dark." So, I guess I was right.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

And then the complete opposite, a serious plot, came out.

FOUMS

I also wanted to do something with vampires. That was originally going to be a different story, but Japanese culture and vampires got mixed together.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

So when you first thought of vampires, you considered Dracula and western things?

FOUMS

Yes, but there are already plenty of those. I wanted to do something a little different. I was thinking a lot about what I should do. Vampires in Japanese settings, well, strictly speaking, I suppose there are quite a few of those, but I didn't know about them or hadn't seen them, so I thought, "What if I did that?"

EDITING DEPARTMENT

There are some with more of an action-horror feel but...

FOUMS

There are... aren't there? There are a lot of those types.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

In the action-horror genre, they acknowledge vampires, but they are always evil and abominable.

FOUMS

They're all rooted in a idea that I also do (laughs). Those types don't become heroes. With vampires, the blood drinking scene is usually cathartic, isn't it? So, I was groping around in the dark for a different way to achieve catharsis.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Essentially, as far as a scene directly showing a vampire sucking blood.

FOUMS

I didn't want to do one...

EDITING DEPARTMENT

For a scene depicting the sucking of blood, there are none until all the way up to the last scene of volume 4, where Kazuo bites into Chihiro's neck.

every second my everyday stuff with me. It's like life as it's intended. (Laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT
But it's a change of pace, right?

TOOME
Yeah, it is, of course. Changing my workplace too, it helps a bit in the beginning at least. (Laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT
Will you move again when you've gotten used to this place?

TOOME
Probably. I just don't accumulate things 'til my place is too cluttered to do anything. Then I move when I have no other choice, so it's out of necessity.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
Do you collect things like glowstons—and such?

TOOME
That's right. I do, and moving them all is quite a hassle! Each one has to be wrapped up by itself in its own paper bag, and then I move them in hotel bags. I've got tons of paper bags with me. (Laughs) For the most part, all these little hotel bags are carried on foot from neighborhood to neighborhood.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
"Lament of the Lamb" started out as a bi-monthly serialization, but then moved to being a monthly serialization. Were there any changes made because of that?

TOOME
When we became a monthly serialization, we did around 20 pages a month. If we did 30 pages, the production became a little lengthy. And, while the 30 pages was worthwhile reading, the challenge to accomplish the same thing in pages did change lots of our production a bit.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
With the monthly serialization, there were 2-part story compositions, right? What do you put your time into mostly when working?

TOOME
I spend a considerable amount of time editing to places. If I have time, I just feel like adding to

TOOME
I was surprised. I thought it was a really popular comic, but that turned out to be wrong. (Laughs) I saw it on video. Every copy of that video sold out, and I failed to buy it. I remember if it will come in DVD. Probably the next famous actor in the comic is Lance Henriksen. (Laughs) He plays the vampire's boss. I like Lance Henriksen. He's why I watched the movie. The same director did "Blue Steel." When I saw a copy of "Blue Steel," I realized it had the same director and that Lance Henriksen was starring in it, so I rented it.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
The story's protagonist becomes a vampire, but he fights against it and doesn't drink human blood, right?

TOOME
Yes. That's what I was going for.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
Were there any changes in your surroundings during the serialization?

TOOME
Nothing. (Laughs) Oh, I moved, but that was it.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
Normally production is very systematic, like working every day, right?

TOOME
There's a degree of routine. If I don't stick to it, things slowly go downhill.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
How many times did you move?

TOOME
During the "Lament of the Lamb" serialization I moved twice.

EDITING DEPARTMENT
Isn't it troublesome? To move while you're working.

TOOME
It's really a pain! You'll be painting, but you'll have to keep digging out your work tools. (Laughs) In any case, I didn't pack my work supplies and carried them myself on the day of the move. Then going to work without unpacking. I can't finish unpacking well after the deadline! And I always

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Speaking of odis, doesn't Yangschin-san talk about how reds just won't come out right?

TOAME

It depends on the variety of paint. Like dying it once and never being able to get it back to the color it was before.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

It won't disappear if you paint over it?

TOAME

It will always seem to float in the surface. With acrylics, they dry up really quick, so I might not be able to say that about them. With oils, it doesn't start to dry the instant you paint it. All the painting I've done before mixes in with the new painting I do on top, that's just how I paint. So, if I let it dry, they won't mix at all. If the colors underneath are still wet, the colors above will mix in with them. The color Crimson Lake really closely resembles the color of blood, a very dark red. About the time I was in prep school (getting ready for college entrance exams), there was no oil painting at being sold. One with a novel brush to it. That Crimson Lake color was in that set. My lecturer for that prep school asked, "Would all of you who have bought sticker sets please show them to me?" So we showed them and he'd say, "You won't be using this or this." That's what he said (laughs). The Indigo Blue and Crimson Lake dyes shouldn't be used by beginners. All of you are still years away from using them" and those sort of things are what he said. In any case, they were forbidden to us.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Even though they were major colors in a foundation set (laughs)!

TOAME

That's right, major colors. He said so because he wasn't the one to select the colors in the sticker set (laughs). He said there were other more foundational, nice colors.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

And so something like that becomes the basis for the opening scene, right?

TOAME

That's right. I have experienced that too. Something turned up entirely red, so I asked the lecturer, "What can I do with this?" and he said

them. There's no end to it. But there is a limit to the pages in a volume release.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

You draw quite a bit in color I think there have been some slight changes since the early days. Have there been any conscious changes?

TOAME

I never got printed in color before I became a professional, you know? In my student days, I didn't know how it would look in color until it got printed (laughs). Now I have to try to imagine how the colors will look before printing. There's a difference between what I see and what gets printed. I've come to understand how types of color will be reproduced on a printed page. I'm trying to learn just which ones do what, that's really the trick.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

When do problems arise with that?

TOAME

It's really all about flesh tones. When printed, they really become blue. Because I worried as little of that as possible, I use very few blues, greens and other colors like that. My foundation colors really came out more than I expected on printing. I didn't really notice it from just looking, but with 4-color printing, the blue color really comes out. In rough sketches, I'd lay down a guideline in pencil, thinking it wouldn't show up, but when we printed, there it was! "What? That happened!" It really surprised me (laughs). There's pencil lines scattered everywhere on the faces." I thought I had painted them on, but the pencils had right through. I'm thinking they shouldn't be underestimated (laughs). In any case, flesh tones and being careful white painting is what it's all about. When painting in oil, even if the pencil lines don't disappear, it's all doing compo. Why does printing pick up what it does, I wonder. It's strange.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Which is more conceivable to paint with? Oils or watercolors?

TOAME

Working with light colors always stresses me out the most. You only get one shot and if it doesn't work, it's a waste. You can't just paint over things until they look right. If you don't paint it well right off the bat, it quickly turns ugly. That's what happens when you paint in watercolor. I'm always really nervous about them turning out like that. But with oil, you can always just paint over the top and it's all good (laughs).

mine's either was at a science laboratory, they said lab coats quite cheap there. So I had his sister buy them for me 3 at a time for everyone. The men's coat are really large. And they're long. Our uniforms are long too. Is there barely covered them

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Then only one really isn't enough for painting, right?

FOUME

First it gets too you're covered in mud, then it gets like it's all about around the thighs. It gets dirty really dirty, at first you just wipe the paint off with a cloth, but it really gets to be a pain wiping off your coat all the time (laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT

If Yaguchi-san's episodes were based on personal experience, then what about Chisuna and Kazuma?

FOUME

They weren't. Those two were quite fairly fantasy only (laughs). Chisuna was really not a normal ordinary person.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

More of an idea?

FOUME

That's right! I've always wanted to try to draw this kind of child. Long straight black-haired, almost-eyed girl. That and the sailor school uniforms (laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Yup, when it's uniforms, it has to be sailor-type uniforms (laughs)

FOUME

I like them. They're cute. You don't see them around much anymore. Sailor-type uniforms are absolutely cute! But I'd like them to go with the sailor-type uniforms with the miniskirt. It's too sexual! I like them at the knee. White knee or white thigh socks. Loose socks are just a little too... Loose socks may be cute with miniskirts, but with sailor-type, as much as possible, it has to be knee-length. And then normal socks. I'd like to express some sadness over the demise of the sailor-style uniform. I want to see more of them (laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Chisuna habitually wears kimono, right? Have you had an interest in kimono for a long time?

"This is already beyond hope, start over" (laughs). While taking entrance exams for art colleges, you have to draw something in a short time span. If something like that happens then, there's just no recovering. That's something where, if you spend a couple weeks on it, all the paint dries and you paint over it. A night having a good foundation (laughs).

EDITING DEPARTMENT

So, did you put your testing days to good use in the story?

FOUME

There was a time I was sharpening my pencil with my painting knife. It was like my painting knife was slowly turning into a chisel. It's used for smoothening down corners. Because corners are made of rough lines, the point of my painting knife seems to be blunter and sharper. And then I really sharpened my pencil with it. At first, it's too hard to cut with, but it slowly turns into a steadily sharpen the more you use it (laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT

In dramas, they have those scenes where the backdrop curtains gets cut.

FOUME

You sure can cut it. Quite easily. At first you can't. But after that it's easy just to cut your hand open.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

So what Yaguchi-san did was based on real experience

FOUME

Yes, based on real experience

EDITING DEPARTMENT

What about wearing white doctor's coats so as not to worry about getting dirty?

FOUME

At first I wore aprons, but those didn't cover me enough, so I switched to the doctor's coats. Some people use foretops instead when painting.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

So Yaguchi could've been wearing a jersey (laughs). Don't oil paints not come off?

FOUME

They don't really. That having some form of protection is best! It's easier to wash like that. I met one of the Doctors and 'Doctor'. A friend of

and second ones, there is a sister. At one volume, I'm talking about short skirts. All three siblings have the same hair style (laughs). In this fatherless family, the mother also has the same hair style (laughs). Even if the mother hasn't come out anywhere yet.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Through the serialization, many characters became merchandised. Are any of those your favorites?

KUAME

I'm using a plate, it's just the right size. It gets quite a bit of use in my house (laughs). It just felt practical.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

What about the schedule book?

KUAME

I don't really go out a lot. I don't go walking with a notebook. The plate was the most practical item (laughs).

EDITING DEPARTMENT

On the other hand, was there something you wanted to stop production off?

KUAME

I hated it everything well before the merchandise was made, so, no, there wasn't.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Aside from the Illustration collection DX box, are there any other items you want?

KUAME

I'm a very practical kind of guy (laughs). I want items I can use (laughs).

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Like the fax sheet from the DX box?

KUAME

Even though I didn't use boxes a lot at the time, I used that quite a bit. Then everyone around me kept saying, "But we can use boxes anymore." (Laughs).

EDITING DEPARTMENT

But you wanted to have the stickers, didn't you?

TOUJIE

I like wearing kimono as well. Occasionally I wear nothing but kimono. Afterwards, I like to draw them.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

They're quite different from Western clothing, so it's difficult, isn't it?

TOUJIE

It's a problem if I'm not used to them. People of the past were exceptionally good at drawing kimono. If you don't wear something, you don't understand it. You don't understand the composition of it or where the neckline is, or how to put it on and such. Even if I like kimono, I still don't like drawing those patterns. Well, drawing the patterns is quite fun when I'm doing color. Even if I like the form of kimono, I won't get too absorbed in the design of them.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

About the thoughts you put into your characters. Is there a character that is closest to you?

TOUJIE

There isn't really. Every one of them has a little of me reflected in them.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Even Minase-san?

TOUJIE

Minase-san really is a pitiful person, isn't he? (Laughs). At the end, I wanted him to come to some sort of understanding.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Chizuna's friend Suzuki-san was exceptionally popular among readers.

TOUJIE

I decided that that girl would be Chizuna's sister opposite-Angel, with a will to live. Even though I haven't even thought about her name at the start.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

And Kazuna has his friend Kinoshita.

TOUJIE

Kinoshita turned out as I had thought from the start. A friend who would do a lot for Kazuna (laughs). Kinoshita also had siblings (laughs). If "Lament of the Leaf" is the second son, "Ding Falters for Me" is my eldest. Between my eldest

TOAME

"Sensei Hatakenaka?" I haven't really thought about it definitively yet. I'm still working on the remainder of the work for "Lament of the Lamb."

EDITING DEPARTMENT

After the serialization in a magazine is finished, various collections still need to come out. So it probably doesn't feel that the series has really finished.

TOAME

That's right. That certainly could be the case. Even though we're done adding to the manga story, there's still image collections, so it doesn't feel like it's really over.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

For and a half years is a long time, so there must be a lot of emotion building up.

TOAME

That's right. I was drawing every month, and even that that's gone, I don't know what to think. But that's all right, not drawing and such. (laughs)

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Any final words for your readers?

TOAME

In all of you who've stayed with me through this on-and-off-half-year period, I'm very grateful. Thank you all very much.

TOAME

Because I am a guy who collects stickers (laughs). I've been a card collector since elementary school. Stickers make me happy. From when I was in elementary school I've carried around things like Sevens stickers. But I never stuck them on things. The joints may have already gone bad.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

Well, that's the way a collector uses stickers, right?

TOAME

Well, I don't use my character stickers very much. I'm just happy that they were made.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

The ones put in the box were the type that can be put on surfaces.

TOAME

Those were the big stickers.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

The figures were made into

TOAME

The figures were wonderfully made items. I have them.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

I heard you've more recently been into resin figures.

TOAME

I like looking at them, and I like making them.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

What do you think of the production model of the new figure you've seen?

TOAME

Magnificent is all I can say about it.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

It has blood, flowing in a single line from the arm. But that was your proposal, wasn't it?

TOAME

Seeing it implemented as I envisioned it makes me happy.

EDITING DEPARTMENT

You have another project that you're already thinking about?

AFTERWORD

At the start of this production—"Let's make an unbelievably dark story with no relief, facing nothing but destruction. Go! That's what I want to draw"—and after a long fight, I presented it to the man in charge and he said, "All right, let's go with that." Deep within me somewhere I was thinking, "Is this okay?" while my brush was flowing. As I thought, gloom was heavily themed, the product was free of action and contained perverse acts. But the real me was somehow unsatisfied. The world is ending and everyone's going to die"—those kinds of negative thoughts were all that was going through my mind. Now that I think about it, I was simply an inexperienced idiot.

Thanks to much patience and time, the idiot was cured. Truth is, I'm introverted. Even though at first I planned to go from an end with no hope, to an end with a little bit. It went almost as I'd conceived it. Along the way, the publisher changed things a little. All the way until the end I keenly felt something inexpressible. To my editors who've followed this to the end, thank you. Thank you.

Also to my assistants, Inahara-kun, Nakagawa-kun, Miyori-chan, Muramatsu-san; to Wakahara-san, who drew the title logo; to Mr. Kishikawa, who put together the image collection and occasionally lent his hand to help. Thank you very much. This production finished when it was supposed to because of all of you.

2003. 1.30 

MATSUO
FURUKAWA IS
COOL, BUT
KISHIDA MORE IS
COOL, TOO...



Around the start of the serialisation, I would go and rent a lot of videos to watch. I would watch 2-3 in one day. The genres were wide and varied. Mainly Japanese TV dramas from the 60's and 70's. Sometimes, I'd go to the movie theater. They had all-night back-to-back showings of old Hollywood movies that I went to. I had near a freeloader friend of mine. We would talk from noon until midnight, sometimes while riding our bikes, sometimes while walking around town. It's like I filled my days with leisure, using my time.

For some reason
Japanese turtles



I'm a little afraid of how big he'll get

About the time the serialisation started, I also started raising a turtle, Jaguar-dan. The florist below me found him in a corner, put him up for sale, and I bought him. He was

a child at the time and only about 5-6cm. But now he's 20cm. Meanwhile, a friend of mine has been raising a turtle of the same species and has been really frustrated. I've taken care of it twice now. Its habitat has been changed twice because she's moved twice. Every year, the CDs and DVDs accumulate, and all the other small things encroach upon her living space, though the amount of it isn't really changing.



Shikoma, age five

Kei Toume

Kei Toume is on the cutting edge of Japan's horror revolution. His smash-hit *Harage no Uta* (*Lament of the Lovers*) original tale in Japan) spawned a live-action film and an OVA anime series. His previous series, *Kurogane*, was a historical samurai story with a bizarre twist — the samurai was a robot.